

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01

L-03 SS-20 AID-20 /164 W

----- 112352

R 230830Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO STATE WASHDC 9668

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

US MISSION GENEVA 353

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: US FIRM TO SUBMIT REVISED BID FOR PURCHASE SEIZED

OPIUM FROM AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 5783

1. SUMMARY: US FIRM HAS DECIDED SUBMIT STANDING BID OFFER
PURCHASE ALL RPT ALL SEIZED OPIUM FROM AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AT
STIPULATED PRICE IN KEEPING WITH MORPHINE CONSTENT OF OPIUM.
BID OFFER WILL BE SUBJECT TO USUAL STIPULATIONS RE OBTAINING
US LICENSE TO IMPORT AND EMBASSY ASSURANCE OPIUM WAS IN FACT
CONFISCATED BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY ECONOMIC CONUNSELOR HAS SPENT PAST WEEK WITH
ROBERT KENT, REPRESENTATIVE MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL WORKS,
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI RE POSSIBLE PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY TWELVE
TONS OPIUM SEIZED BY AND IN POSSESSION OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT.
KENT CAME TO KABUL ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PARENT COMPANY FOLLOWING
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RECEIPT GOA MINCOMMERCE TELEGRAM MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

3. FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH MINCOMMERCE JALALLAR AND OTHER AFGHAN OFFICIALS. KENT HAS DECIDED SUBMIT STANDING BID OFFER ON PART HIS GOMPANY TO PURCHASE ALL RPT ALL QUANTITIES OPIUM SEIZED BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, BOTH THOSE QUANTITIES PRESENTLY ON HAND AND ANY FUTURE QUANTITIES CONFISCATED. BID PRESUMABLY WILL BE SCALED IN KEEPING WITH MORPHINE CONTENT OF OPIUM. KENT WAS QUICK TO ADD HE TOLD GOA OFFICIALS THESE OFFERS SUBJECT TO OBTAINING NECESSARY IMPORT LICENSE FROM USG AND EMBASSY ASSURANCES OPIUM WAS IN FACT SEIZED AND DID NOT RPT NOT SUBJECT HIS COMPANY TO CHARGES OF PREEMPTIVE BUYING.

4. THERE POSSIBILITY HALLINCKRODT REP WILL DELIVER SEALED BID TO ARNOLD SCHIFFERDECKER, NEA/PAB, FOR FORWARDING VIA DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO ECONOMIC COUNSELOR RAU WHO, IN TURN, WILL DELIVER IT TO MINCOMMERCE JALALLAR. JALALLAR HAS PROMISED DEFER INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO OPEN SEALDZ BIDS UNTIL RECEIPT MALLINCKRODT OFFER. ALTERNATIVE IS FOR MALLINCKRODT REP TO DELIVER BID PERSONALLY TO MINCOMMERCE DURING SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN.

5. MALLINCKRODT ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE FORMALITIES AND OBVIOUSLY HOPDS TO BE ABLE PURCHASE OPIUM SOONEST. COMPANY HAS BEEN OPERATING ON USG STOCKPILE WITHDRAWALS AND, ACCORDING COMPANY REP, PURCHASING POTENTIAL IN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES LESS THAN ADEQUATE MEET COMPANY'S SUPPLY NEEDS OVER NEXT YEAR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT REQUESTED EXPEDITE SENDING MALLINCKRODT SEALED BID TO EMBASSY BY EARLIEST DIPLOMATIC POUCH IF AND WHEN RECEIVED.

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